



### LOUISE McNEILL

On May 12, Governor John D. Rockefeller, IV, officially installed Louise McNeill Pease as West Virginia's new Poet Laureate.

To commemorate her appointment, she has written **ELDERBERRY FLOOD**, a survey of West Virginia in verse containing about 115 poems.

At the special program in her honor in May, the author read selections from the new book and the Appalachian Dance and Music Ensemble interpreted the poetry in dance forms.

Ms. McNeill is also author of six previous books, of which two—**GAULEY MOUNTAIN**, published in 1942 by Harcourt Brace with a foreword by Stephen Vincent Benet; and **PARADOX HILL, FROM APPALACHIA TO LUNAR SHORE**, published in 1972 by the West Virginia University Foundation—are still in print.

Louise McNeill was born at Buckeye in 1911, the daughter of Douglas ["G.D."] and Grace McNeill. After graduation from Edray District High School, she went on to Concord College, where she received her A.B. degree in 1936; Miami University of Ohio, M.A. degree 1938; West Virginia University Ph. D [History and English] 1959; she also studied at Bread Loaf School of English, Middleburg, Vermont, University of Iowa, and Ohio State University.

The following is from an article in West Virginia Arts News.

"Old Doc" as many of her students affectionately call her, has long been an advocate of establishing a clear and separate identity for women. Married in 1939, she and her husband, Roger Pease, attended graduate school together where she requested that her masters and doctorate degrees be acknowledged under her maiden name. Though she was



...by Governor Rockefeller, who also announced that Roy Lee Harman of Beckley, who has served as Poet Laureate for 41 years, will assume the title of Poet Laureate Emeritus.

The Governor said Dr. Pease, who writes under the name of Louise McNeill, will be formally installed in a ceremony this spring at the Cultural Center.

"I share a tremendous admiration for Louise McNeill's sensitive poetry. She's captured the cadence of the language and the history of our people in volumes of poetry which



dents studying West Virginia history.

Louise McNeill Pease's published volumes of poetry includes "Mountain White," "Gauley Mountain" (which includes a foreword by Stephen Vincent Benet with jacket comments by Louis Untermeyer and Archibald MacLeish), "Time is Our House," "From a Dark Mountain," "Paradox Hill," "From Appalachia to Lunar Shore," with jacket comments by Jesse Stuart and Louis Untermeyer), and "The Great Kanawha River in the Old South."

In addition, she's had articles published in more than 19 magazines, among them American Mercury, Atlantic Monthly, Harper's Saturday Review, Saturday Evening Post (over a 20-year period), Ladies Home Journal, Commonwealth, Appalachian Review, Good Housekeeping, and the Christian Science Monitor

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She taught for 30 years at schools including Aiken (S.C.) Preparatory School, West Virginia University, Potomac State College, Concord College and Fairmont State College.

In 1973, Dr. Pease retired to devote time to her writing. She was honored by the West Virginia Society in Washington as the 1978 "West Virginia Daughter of the Year," at the same event at which Governor Rockefeller was named "Son of the Year."

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Dr. Pease is married to Roger W. Pease, formerly of Ashfield, Massachusetts. They have one son, Douglas, who resides in Storrs, Connecticut.

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Dr. Brown has been active in the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources through his activities as a member of the National Academy of Sciences committees on preservation and indigenous strains of maize as well as vulnerability of major food crops.

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She is the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. G. D. McNeill and a sister of James McNeill, of Buckeye, and Mrs. C. P. Dorsey, of Morgantown.

Glen Hiner, a native of Morgantown and chief executive of GE Plastics Business Group.



## County Natives to Receive Honorary Commencement Degrees

Two Pocahontas County natives are among the four people who have distinguished themselves individually in the fields of state government, the fight against world hunger, American poetry and international manufacturing and will receive honorary degrees during May 14 commencement ceremonies at West Virginia University.

Gaston Caperton, West Virginia's 31st governor; William Lacy Brown, president emeritus of Pioneer Hi-Bred Seed Company; Louise McNeill, West Virginia Poet Laureate; and Glen H. Hiner, senior vice president of General Electric Company, will receive their honorary degrees from WVU President Neil S. Bucklew. Ms. McNeill and Mr. Brown are from Pocahontas County.

"The contributions of all these individuals to the state and nation have been extraordinary," Dr. Bucklew said. "These outstanding individuals have been blessed with the gifts of vision and perseverance, and have worked hard to be successful in their chosen endeavors."

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Hannah Brown, have two children, William T. Brown and Alicia Brown-Matthes. His sister, Louise Brown Butcher, lives in Arbovale. Their parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Tilden Brown.

Pocahontas County native Louise McNeill has been teaching and writing poetry about her native Appalachia since 1930.

West Virginia's Poet Laureate (designated so by former Gov. John D. Rockefeller in 1979) was born in Buckeye, and began her teaching career in a one-room school at the age of 19.

Ms. McNeill is the author of several collections of poems, the most recent titled "Elderberry Flood," as well as numerous scholarly works and contributions to anthologies and textbooks. Her new memoir, "The Milkweed Ladies," once again focuses on life in the mountains.

She began her most famous publication, "Gauley Mountain (1939)," when she was working on her master's degree in creative writing at Miami of Ohio University in 1938, and completed it by oil lamp and wood stove in a farmhouse in Buckeye.

The American poet received her undergraduate degree from Concord College and her doctorate in history from WVU in the late 1950's. In between Ms. McNeill attended the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont—where she worked with Robert Frost—and the University of Iowa Writers



Mr. Orr used the life of Saul, the first king of Israel, as illustrative of a good beginning and a miserable ending. It was a fine, practical discourse well timed and timely. A large congregation was in attendance. The young ladies and young gentlemen presented a very fine appearance in their college caps and gowns. There are thirty-two in this year's class, twenty five girls and seven boys, the largest of any graduating class of this school up to this time. The class roll is: Robert Barlow, Jennie Barnes. Alvergia Darnell, Anna Denison, Bedford Dilley, Mary Warwick Dunlap, Joe Eskridge, Nela Flack, Helen Fortune, Eula Geiger, Glenna Gibson, Goldie Gay Hannah, Marjorie Hannah, Edith Kelmenson, Edith May, Evelyn Ginger, Stanley McLaughlin, Curtis McCoy, Louise McNeill, Gaynelle Moore, Marguerite Moore, Vestale Moore, Anne Morris, Virginia Neel, Reta Rexrode, Mary Ruckman, Marguerite Robertson, Consula Rider, Sterl Shrader, Helen



an Indian raid at Mill Point in the 1780's; A Fable of Droop Mountain, which tells a little-known legend about the Civil War battle in 1863; Corner Tree, based on the Lewis Oak, the stump of which stood in Marlinton until this year; Lumber Ghost Towns and Green Bank Radio Astronomy Center.

This is a book of heroes, heroines, and larger-than-life characters in West Virginia's rich story: Cornstalk, John Lewis, the slave Dick Pointer, Betty Zane, Daniel Boone, John Brown, Nancy Hart, to name just a few. This is also a book of courageous but forgotten individuals: the settlers, the itinerant teachers, the



a student at WVU in the '50s.

Last Friday evening Howard and I went over to Mount Hope to watch the dramatization of her book, Gauley Mountain. The players made the poems come to life for us.

I thought perhaps if people in Pocahontas County knew more about the performance some would want to come to Mount Hope to see it. Or perhaps some organization could persuade the group to come to Pocahontas County some time, perhaps in connection with Pioneer Days. It's well worth seeing.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Howard Brown

**NOTE:** Gauley Mountain is being performed every Friday and Saturday evening at 8 p.m. through



One of the best plays ever given by the High School students was "Peggy Heart," by the members of "The Seneca," the High School annual. The play was given at the Seneca Theatre Friday night to a capacity house. Those taking a part were Reta Redde, Stanley McLaughlin, Margaret Dunlap, Anne Morrison, Louise McNeill, Joe Eskridge, Addison McNeill, Bedford Dilley, Edward Exrode. The proceeds will be used to help defray the expense of the year's issue of "The Seneca".

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One of the most enjoyable amateur  
dramatrical events ever put over in this  
town was the play "Thank You",  
given by the Jesters Dramatic Club  
at the Edray District High School  
on Thursday and Friday nights.  
The crowds were large and a good  
sum was realized. This money will  
be used for school purposes. The  
characters of the play were Gaynell  
Moore, Mary Hiner, Edith Kelmens  
Anna Denison, Louise McNeill  
Stanley McLaughlin, E. Clyde Buz  
ard, Bedford Dilley, Gus Edgar  
Artis McCoy, Paul Sharp, E. S  
utter, Edward Rexrode, Clay Tall  
an, Reed McNeill and Joe Eskridge

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graved on a bronze plaque which will include the names of Miami men who have died in American Wars.

Calling Dr. Pease an "outstanding Miamian," the school's alumni newspaper reports that the West Virginia poet was the first master's degree candidate ever to turn in a creative writing project accepted as a thesis.

The Poet Laureate, named to the post in 1977,



Over a long corn row—  
With the sun a weight on my shoulders  
With the aching weight of my hoe,  
Then—suddenly, I am kneeling  
Under the brazen sky—  
Mingling red dust and beauty,  
And an ageless cry.

I am a woman—waiting—  
On a hill in the springing grass—  
Stretching my arms to the sunlight,  
Hearing a strange wind pass—  
Pregnant life in my body,  
Stirring life, and I clutch  
Dark soil at the roots of the grasses,  
Pregnant and warm to my touch.

I am a lovely lady  
Sheathed in a slicken gown,  
Strolling the garden path at dusk,  
Hearing the leaves drift down,  
And I kneel by a pool in the garden  
Finding my lost tear's start—  
Pressing a handful of petalled mold  
Hard—hard—through the slick to my  
heart.



izen. He was one of a family of nine children born to Jonathan G. and Angeline B. McNeill. Of the nine, four survive. These are Betty Buckley and Enoch McNeill of Buckeye; Asa, who lives at Sutton, and Ulysses of Santa Ana, California. Millie, wife of the late Aaron Kee, and the eldest of the family, and three brothers—Daniel, James and Dock died several years ago.

William C. McNeill married Susan Buckley, daughter of the Reverend Joshua Buckley, on April 21, 1870, and for the most part of their sixty-five years of married life they resided on the old homestead near the mouth of Dry Creek. His aged widow and five children survive him. The children are Mrs. Neva J. Kee and Mrs. A. S. Overholt of Marlinton; Mrs. G. D. McNeill and Mrs. Mortimer Kellison of Buckeye, and Reuben S., of Marlinton.

Early in life, Mr. McNeill joined the M P Church and he lived a most



## Daniel Boone

(Daniel Boone, when past the prime of his life, lived in the Great Kanawha Valley for some 10 years. In the 1790's, he was elected to represent Kanawha County in the Virginia Assembly.)

It was certainly not in his early plans,  
And certainly not in his nature;  
But Old Dan Boone — and his record stands —  
Sat in the Legislature.

He dressed himself in his deerskin clothes,  
And he walked to Richmond City;  
Enrolled himself "where the hot air blows,"  
And was then put on committee.



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## McNeill book published

The University of Pittsburgh Press proudly announces the publication of *Fermi Buffalo*, a collection of poetry written by the late Louise McNeill, West Virginia's Poet Laureate from 1979 until her death in June 1993.

Louise McNeill achieved national prominence as a poet, essayist and historian. She was born in 1911, at Buckeye, on an Appalachian hill farm that had been in her family for nine generations. McNeill was educated at Concord College, Miami of Ohio, and West Virginia University.



## HONORED

The Board of Governors of the International Platform Association announces the election to IPA membership of Louise McNeill Pease.

The International Platform Association membership is composed of distinguished and dedicated persons from fifty-five nations. Its ancestor, the American Lyceum Association out of which the IPA evolved, was founded one hundred fifty years ago by Daniel Webster.



Services were held Sunday on the lawn of Cabin Creek Quilts in Malden and then on Monday at 11 a. m. in VanReenen Funeral Home by the Rev. Roy Gwinn. Burial was on the McNeill Farm at Buckeye.

Mrs. Pease was Poet Laureate of West Virginia, named in 1977 by then-Governor Jay Rockefeller. She started writing poetry when she was 16 and had poems published in many national magazines. She was the author of several books, *Mountain White* (1931), *Gauley Mountain, Time is Our House*, *Paradox Hill*, *Elderberry Flood*, *The Milkweed Ladies* (her memoirs), *Hill Daughter: New and Selected Poems* (1991), and many



in Pocahontas County, \$2.00 a year  
Elsewhere, \$2.50 a year. In advance.

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JANE PRICE SHARP. EDITOR

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THURSDAY, FEB. 23, 1961

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### Poet Laureate

The townspeople of Keyser, where Dr. Louise McNeill Pease is a professor at Potomac State College, last week purchased space in the Hillbilly to support their proposal for the naming of Louise McNeill as the Poet Laureate of West Virginia. And we, of her native Pocahontas, gladly add our voices for a vote of acclamation. Dr. Pease, writing under her maiden name of Louise McNeill (she is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. G. D. McNeill of Buckeye), is the author of the book of



and arts were presented such as spinning, weaving, woodcraft, pottery, candles, needlework, cornhuskery. They are trying to keep these crafts alive. The students who had the opportunity to go were amazed that our heritage is so rich and feel that it was a marvelous experience which every West Virginia mountaineer should have!

Pocahontas County was well represented at this conference by seven teenagers and two adults. Attending from the Green Bank area were Deborah Mathews, Frances Nottingham, Ruth Evelyn Varner; Marlinton was represented by Douglas Morrison and Linda



Valley High School, he is the son of Mrs. R. L. (Nellie) Shrad-  
er and the late Omer Michael,  
of Marlinton. The Pocahontas  
Historical Museum Shop has  
the book on sale for \$2.50.  
They are at the Times Office  
until the Museum opens.

The big vault door from the  
old Bank of Marlinton building  
was finally loaded Monday  
evening for its trip to Cleve-  
land, Ohio. It took about a  
week to get it out. The door,  
estimated to weigh about ten  
tons, will go to the Guardian  
Proof Company, subsidiary of  
Diebold Company, where it  
will get a refurbishing job. It  
has already been sold. The  
colonial styling is in great de-  
mand.

Snow continues in spite of  
the calendar. Alfred McNael  
and Lloyd Payne got stuck in  
a big snowdrift on Cranberry  
Mountain Sunday. Lots of  
ramp hunters out.

a lesson del-  
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Mrs. Carl  
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and the  
Sharla Glad  
Broce, Mrs.  
Herb Morri  
lison, Jack

Armstrong,  
da Ricottil  
strong, Ma  
Brett Nuck  
Ricottilli.





**Louise McNelll Pease**  
**1911 - 1993**

**Poet Laureate of West Virginia**  
**Daughter of Pocahontas**

*Arrow Grasses by Greenbrier River*

Arrow grasses by the river,  
Phalanx, spear by spear arrayed,  
Teach us that we may remember  
Others here have walked afraid.

Teach us—all our generation—  
We are not the first to know  
Death and war and red transgression  
Where these quiet waters flow.

Long ago our father's father  
Here in springtime dropped his corn,  
Died and fell, an arrow winging  
In his heart that April morn—

Let us play at Fox and Geese,  
Run and chase and sing,  
Play the world is still at peace,  
And our world a ring  
Made by children in the snow of this  
meadow long ago,  
Children of the sun and snow—  
Children of the sun.

...

*The Dream*

I tried to move,  
But I could make no motion;  
I tried to scream,  
But all my screams were gone;  
I tried to see,  
But fog was laced around me—



what is now the Earl Beverage home. While it was dedicated Union Chapel, it was always called Beverage.

The deed for the land was given on November 26, 1873, by Jacob Beverage, Sr., and Susan his wife. to I. Walton Allen, Levi Beverage William B. Hannah, John A. Beverage and Isaac Shinaberry, trustees. The church was built and dedicated the following year, 1874 Marcus Waugh tongued and grooved lumber for the ceiling by hand. The deed stated it was to be used by the members and friends of the various denominations living within convenient distance of said house of worship. The president of the board was to see that all denominations contributing toward the erection of said house be given equal privileges. Any par-



Isaac Shinaberry, Jerusha Shinaberry, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Shinaberry, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Kremer, Mr. and Mrs. William Hannah, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Shinaberry, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Ware, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Carr, Mr. and Mrs. James Friel; Rev. Joseph Beverage was one of the ministers of the church.

In 1908 the home of Charles Shinaberry was destroyed by fire and John Beverage gave him the lumber out of this church to help in rebuilding his home. One of the pews out of the church is still in the Shinnaberry house. By 1900 many of these people had moved away or died so another section of the community had become more thickly populated, therefore the church service was transferred to the Poage



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may a crowd was the biggest ever in Marlinton. Whether a record or not, it was a big crowd. We understand an out-of-county policeman estimated nine thousand. The streets looked festive, store window exhibits were excellent, lots of interesting activities, and everybody entered into the work and fun.

The presence of Pearl S. Buck heightened the interest of many. The seminar programs at Hillsboro were excellent, ending too quickly. Miss Buck gave of herself to many functions, staying at the Allegheny Lodge. If you didn't get to the Friday night program you missed something special with



County areas associated with her ancestors' early life in West Virginia.

The first session on the "Quality of Living" seminar will be held July 9, at Hillsboro High School, and will focus its attention on the Aesthetic and Philosophical Consideration of Ecology and Environment in the life of modern man. The second session scheduled July 10 will deal with "Methods to Bring About Change." In addition to Miss Buck, an ecologist, educator, industrialist, and a student will participate in the panel discussions.

Miss Buck is the only woman ever to be awarded the No-



Superintendent 1919-1923 and then served as principal of Marlinton High School until 1941, when he became professor of history at Davis and Elkins College. He retired in 1955. A vast reservoir of historical fact, he was the author of "The Last Forest" and "Tales of Pocahontas County"

Mr. McNeill attended Draughon's Business College and received his LL. B. and LL. M. degrees from the National University Law School in Washington. He served as prosecuting attorney in the early 1900's. In 1906 he joined the



## L. D. H. S. NEWS

The Seneca Annual Staff for the 1927 year book has been elected and solicits the support of all the patrons and friends of the school. We will be around to see you and we will need your help to make this Annual a success. We hope to publish an Annual that will make you proud of us and that will be a credit to our school.

The staff officers are as follows:  
Editor, Reta Rexrode, assistant editor, Anna Dennison, business manager, Grady Moore, sales manager, Edith Kelmenson, art editor, Edith Fay, poet, Virginia Neel, historian, Louise McNeill, athletics, Jess Wiley, humor, Addison McNeill, will, Helen Smith, prophecy Gaynell Moore.

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already known by that name as author of two books, this was not allowable; which has caused her some awkwardness over the years. At 68, however, she has learned to accept with amusement the minor confusion about the several names associated with her various roles as poet, scholar, and mother.

To her colleagues and students over the past 30 years at West Virginia University, Potomac State College, Concord College, and Fairmont College, she has been known as Dr. Pease, while readers of her poetry know her as Louise McNeill. Still others know her as Mrs. Roger Pease, wife and mother to their son Douglas. "It's simpler just to call me Louise," she now says.

Retired in 1973 as Professor of History at Fairmont College, she and her husband now live in Lewisburg.

Dr. Pease says that the idea for ELDERBERRY FLOOD has been in her mind for some 20 years and that she had made several outlines for a history of West Virginia in poetic form. But it was not until the fall of 1977, some 40 years after the publication of GAULEY MOUNTAIN, that the book was actually written during a "strenuous 6 months." While GAULEY MOUNTAIN was essentially a book of lore and fiction, the concept for ELDERBERRY FLOOD demanded a greater challenge to work within the restrictions of history and fact to be rendered in poetic form.

The Department of Culture and History will publish the book, along with a recording of fiddler Woody Simmons, as the first in a series of publications and records to be produced under the imprint "Elderberry." The book will be sold through The Shop and through its marketing program. The Department of Education will also sponsor a special edition to be distributed throughout the state's schools for use as a supplementary text.

GAULEY MOUNTAIN and PARADOX HILL are for sale at the



fore it was settled up to modern times. The book, through a joint effort between the Governor, the De-

partment of Culture and History and the Department of Education, will be made available to all students studying West Virginia history.

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Mrs. Ed Wagner, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Pyles, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Clendenen and

er. She earned degrees at Concord College (A.B.), Miami University of Ohio (M. A.), West Virginia University (Ph.D) and also studied at Ohio University.

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#### D & E College Max Morath

Max Morath, an accomplished actor and monologist as well as a versatile pianist, will be combining his affection for the

Mrs. Helen Sharp. Nice gifts were received and a good time was had by all.



#### Birthday

Mrs. Mamie Geiger Kellison observed her 89th birthday at her home in Lively, Virginia, February 7, 1979. Mr. and Mrs. Kellison and son, Wayne, are former residents of Marlinton. Mr. and Mrs. Kellison were married in 1920.

Mrs. Kellison and her sister, Eva Gwin, are the only living grandchildren of German emigrants to this country.

Their grandfather built the grist mill on Stony Creek that was later called the Waugh Mill and now has been rebuilt at Babcock State Park.

Mrs. Betty Bennett, of Lively, and Virginia and



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manian Brown, have two children, William T. Brown and Alicia Brown-Matthes. His sister, Louise Brown Butcher, lives in Arbovale. Their parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Tilden Brown.

Pocahontas County native Louise McNeill has been teaching and writing poetry about her native Appalachia since 1930.

West Virginia's Poet Laureate (designated so by former Gov. John D. Rockefeller in 1979) was born in Buckeye, and began her teaching career in a one-room school at the age of 19.

Ms. McNeill is the author of several collections of poems, the most recent titled "Elderberry Flood," as well as numerous scholarly works and contributions to anthologies and textbooks. Her new memoir, "The Milkweed Ladies," once again focuses on life in the mountains.

She began her most famous publication, "Gauley Mountain (1939)," when she was working on her master's degree in creative writing at Miami of Ohio University in 1938, and completed it by oil lamp and wood stove in a farmhouse in Buckeye.

The American poet received her undergraduate degree from Concord College and her doctorate in history from WVU in the late 1950's. In between Ms. McNeill attended the Bread Loaf School of English in Vermont—where she worked with Robert Frost—and the



- 1969 Douglas Dunbrack, Parade  
Chairman
- 1970 Pearl S. Buck
- 1972 Mrs. Thomas C. Edgar
- 1973 J. Z. Johnson
- 1974 Charles Richardson
- 1975 Mack Brooks
- 1976 Ms. Mabel and Fleeia Lang
- 1977 Walter Jett and Harry  
Hockenberry
- 1978 John Hayslett
- 1979 Louise McNeill Pease
- 1980 Grady K. Moore
- 1981 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence A.  
Sheets
- 1982 Pearl C. Ward and Marvin  
Dunbrack
- 1983 The Civilian Conservation  
Corps



Nor can he reduce the cost of production. If he is to receive profits he must adopt a more efficient method of marketing. Our county co-operative live stock shippers' association offers a solution to this, and other problems. Dad should patronize it for various reasons:

He does not produce livestock in car lots, hence is at the mercy of the local buyer. The association would get for him market prices with lowest marketing costs. For the past three years the average association costs on cattle have been 74 cents per hundred pounds, not including shrink, as against \$1.25 outside the association.

Co-operative marketing puts a premium on animals of superior quality. This fact is an incentive to the producer to improve his livestock in co-operation with his neighbors.

By shipping co-operatively, Dad



graved on a bronze plaque which will include the names of Miami men who have died in American Wars.

Calling Dr. Pease an "outstanding Miamian," the school's alumni newspaper reports that the West Virginia poet was the first master's degree candidate ever to turn in a creative writing project accepted as a thesis.

The Poet Laureate, named to the post in 1977,



Noralyn M. Pease; and his nephew, Theodore M. Pease, of Anchorage, Alaska. He is also survived by two sons, Dr. Roger W. and Charles Fessendeu Pease, by a former marriage.

He was born in Ashfield, Massachusetts, August 2, 1898, the son of the Reverend C. B. F. Pease and Jessica Cole Pease. Through his mother's family he was a descendant of James Cole of Plymouth Colony and of Roger Williams.

He was a graduate of Loomis Preparatory School and attended Yale University, Class of 1920, until the outbreak of World War I. He volunteered for service in April 1917 and, at the close of the War, attended Cornell University where he graduated in Agriculture in 1922. In a much later period he attended Bread Loaf School of English, the University of Iowa, and in 1950 received an M. S. degree in Agriculture at West Virginia University.

Always a wilderness explorer, he made a long journey in the early 1920's, following the Laps and their reindeer herds across Lapland and, before his return to the United States, he climbed to the cold dark edges of North Cape.

At home, he was a teacher, farmer, carpenter and fisherman. He taught at the Boys' Latin School

duration—pneumonia, "The old man's friend."

In early November a memorial service will be held in the little woodland behind the Unitarian Church in Manchester Township.

In the last year of his life, he would often quote from the 23rd Psalm, "Horatio at the Bridge," Virgil's "Aeneid," and from the beautiful "Requiem" by Robert Louis Stevenson, written just 11 years before Rog was born:

*"Under the bright and starry sky  
Dig the grave and let me lie.  
Glad did I live and gladly die,  
And I laid me down with a will.*

*"This be the verse you grave for me:*

*Here he lies where he longed to be—*

*Home is the sailor, home from the sea,*

*And the hunter home from the hill."*

—Louise McNeill Pease

...

### Nancy Yeager Stokes

Mrs. Nancy Yeager Stokes, age 53, of Monticello, Arkansas, formerly of Marlinton and Beckley, died Friday, September 21, 1990, at Drew Memorial Hospital in Monticello where she had served as Medical Technologist.

She was the daughter of the late Arnout and Helen Yeager, of Marlinton.

She is survived by her



# Poet's Corner

em by Louise McNeill  
teve Smith found this  
—handwritten—among the  
s of his aunt, Polly Smith  
olds, a high school teacher in  
nton and later in Buckhannon.  
e McNeill Pease, a native of  
eye, was later Poet Laureate of  
Virginia.

## "April Testament"

Love, dear heart, when time is

no longer sing.

I leave this message to be read  
In sunlight and in spring,  
Of life, of faith, of years con-  
Because our love was so,  
That when this form in ang  
went

The spirit would not go.  
And on this page in very truth:  
A lyric and a flame,

Immortal April and a kiss,

The music, and your name.

Louise Mc

...



# McNeill book published

The University of Pittsburgh Press proudly announces the publication of *Fermi Buffalo*, a collection of poetry written by the late Louise McNeill, West Virginia's Poet Laureate from 1979 until her death in June 1993.

Louise McNeill achieved national prominence as a poet, essayist and historian. She was born in 1911, at Buckeye, on an Appalachian hill farm that had been in her family for nine generations. McNeill was educated at Concord College, Miami of Ohio, and West



Mothers must draw a subtle line  
Finer than any thread is fine;  
Must firmly hold but never clutch,  
Must freely give but not too much  
Must stand apart but never far,  
Must heal the wound but bless  
the scar;  
And falsely speaking, truly tell,  
And, guarding, never guard too  
well;  
And hearing, fail to overhear;  
And, fearing all things, have no  
fear;  
And loving, love each child the  
best,  
Yet no child dearer than the rest.

(Published in the February 21,  
1950 issue of the Saturday Review)



s eye, and was published in The  
f Saturday Evening Post:

## Wire-Brier

Let us remember, here recall  
Old rhymes chanted when we  
were small;

Never, never to step on cracks;  
Beware of hoptoads with warty  
backs;

And, "A bushel of wheat and a  
bushel of rye;

Who's not ready holler I."

Let us remember, live again  
Twilight evenings when we were  
ten;

With hide-and-seek on the sum-  
mer lawn,

The fireflies lighting us off and on ;  
And how we ran to the old yard  
tree

And touched it, shouting our one,



that the logs might be driven down to the mill.

Dr. McNeill also allows her title to refer to the "flood" of history—the passage of time. In this collection of poems, West Virginia's poet laureate chronicles the history, lore and legend of the State. Dr. McNeill's love for and knowledge of West Virginia shine through her verse and from her pen history is never dull.

Dr. McNeill designed



tells a little-known legend about the Civil War battle in 1863; Corner Tree, based on the Lewis Oak, the stump of which stood in Marlinton until this year; Lumber Ghost Towns and Green Bank Radio Astronomy Center.

This is a book of heroes, heroines, and larger-than-life characters in West Virginia's rich story: Cornstalk, John Lewis, the slave Dick Pointer, Betty Zane, Daniel Boone, John Brown



She is the author of several books of poetry, including Mountain White, Gauley Mountain, Paradox Hill, and Elderberry Flood.

She has also had her verse published in a number of national magazines.

Dr. Pease is the daughter of the late George Douglas and Grace McNeill McNeill.

She was educated at Edray District High School and received an AB degree from Concord College, a MA from Miami University of Ohio, and her PhD from W. Va. University.

Dr. Pease began her teaching



Last Friday evening Howard and I went over to Mount Hope to watch the dramatization of her book, Gauley Mountain. The players made the poems come to life for us.

I thought perhaps if people in Pocahontas County knew more about the performance some would want to come to Mount Hope to see it. Or perhaps some organization could persuade the group to come to Pocahontas County some time, perhaps in connection with Pioneer Days. It's well worth seeing.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Howard Brown

**NOTE:** Gauley Mountain is being performed every Friday and



Lick at the time and invited me to his home for a couple of days. I think there was a trout stream he wanted me to try.

Mother was the youngest child of Col. A. C. L. Gatewood, born in 1884. I was talking with her one evening in 1965, and took notes and wrote it up the next day. I attach a copy for your information. The English were present in the Linwood area around the turn of the century. I didn't know they were present in other areas. When I was ten years old I knew that there were two kinds of football: Soccer and Rugby.

Sincerely,  
John M. Dunlap, Jr.

Recollections of Eliza Pleasants Gatewood Dunlap as told to her son, John M. Dunlap, Jr., at Spring Farm, Lexington, Virginia, November 26, 1965.

Eliza Pleasants Gatewood is the daughter of Col. Andrew Cameron Lewis Gatewood and Mary Schilling Warwick, Col. and Mrs. Gatewood spent the early years of their marriage at the old home place at Mountain Grove, Virginia.

Later on, in order to make better use of the family lands in West Virginia and increase cattle production, the family moved to the Big Spring place. This farm is located on the Marlinton to Elkins road about twenty miles from Marlinton and for many years was the location of the Linwood post office. One of its distinguishing features is a spring at the base of the hill across the road and directly in front of the house. This spring has an exceptionally high rate of flow, hence the name "Big Spring."

The place had apparently been in use for some years. A nice frame house had already been erected. It had a long porch with a cloak room at one end. This house was later replaced with a large two story frame house of colonial architecture with the friills popular in the late 1800's added. A large yard was enclosed with a white plank fence. The house was located on a bluff about twenty feet above the road. A set of wide stairs connected the two levels ending in a stile at the fence by the road.

At that time a large number of congenial people with similar backgrounds lived in the community, including families that had immigrated from England. In addition, there were several young Englishmen who boarded in the community for a time to learn farming.

The English families were as follows:

Lawson - lived at Mingo.  
Charley Bruce - lived at Mingo.  
Ernshaw - lived at Dry Branch.

They moved to the community from Marlinton and in later years moved back. Mr. King was an expert carpenter and cabinet maker and found ample employment. He made some of the furniture in the Gatewood home from virgin cherry cut from the knob in front of the house. Mr. King and his son Blake built the Tuke house. Blake married Georgia Ligon of Clover Lick. Other King children were Lake, Ted, and Annie.

Ligon - lived at Clover Lick. They were fond of entertaining. Eliza, Myrtl Varner, Emma King, and the Hannahs from Green Bank and others were there frequently for parties. Mrs. Sally Ligon was related to the Gatewoods through the Warwicks.

The older Gatewood children were born at Mountain Grove, Virginia. Massie, Andrew, and Eliza were born at the Big Spring home.

A one room public school was located across the road from the King (Beale) place. Farther down the road on the opposite side near the Vanaver home was located a similar building known as the "pay school". This was a private school maintained by the more prominent members of the community for their children. The patrons contributed to pay expenses and the teacher's salary.

The Gatewoods, Kings, Vanavers, and others attended the pay school. A good teacher was always employed. Miss Jenny Clark was one of the teachers. She later married and went to Wyoming to live. The Wooddells, Beales and others not included in the pay school thought the idea was "snooty." All grades were taught by one teacher but because of the small group this was not too much of a problem.

After Eliza finished the sixth grade the pay school closed, probably because of the panic of 1892, and she went to the seventh grade in the public school. There the teacher had about forty students ranging in age from seven to twenty. Among many others there were Maces, Wooddells and Beales (lots of Beales).

This was probably a difficult year for Eliza. She states that she enjoyed the spelling matches and being able to "spell down" the twenty year old boys. She remembers one incident that she thought was very funny: Henny Beale was eating lunch just outside an open window and said "I sure wish Ma would put more guts in these pies".

Most of the Gatewood boys went to the Greenbrier Military School at Lewisburg. They were there during "the year of the big snow" and were walking home

got home at Christmas and perhaps one more time during the school year.

After high school, Eliza went to Powatan College at Charles Town. She remained there two years and completed the Business Course. Then she was at home about a year until her marriage.

Before the war the Gatewoods owned a young female slave named Cora. Col. Gatewood built a house for her at Mountain Grove and she remained with the family all her life. After the move to Big Spring Aunt Cora was sent for when any special occasion came up that required more help. She was famed for the fried chicken and rolls which she cooked for breakfast. The Hodgsons, fresh from England and probably never seen a colored person, were much interested in Aunt Cora. Col. Gatewood invited them for dinner one evening for the real purpose of seeing Cora. Aunt Cora always called the Colonel "Mar'sh Cameron".

In the late 1800's there was an adequate supply of deer in the woods. As there were no game laws the boys frequently hunted with dogs. Venison appeared on the table often and Mrs. Gatewood's deer steak with gravy was delicious.

The Colonel was a great reader. He also read to the children every

number of years which was located about a tenth of a mile down the road from the Gatewood home. Mr. Marshall from Mingo later operated it for a period of time.

Col. Gatewood frequently entertained the children with war stories. One that Eliza remembers concerned a time at Warm Springs, Virginia, when the Col. and his comrades were pursued by a group of Yankees. They hid in the bushes at the Francisco home and avoided capture. In the 1890's Col. Gatewood wrote a "History of the Bath County Squadron". In this he made no mention of being in Warm Springs. He was probably home on leave at the time of the incident.

Of all the neighbors, Mr. Lawson was the most colorful. He from time to time would spend a night at the Gatewood home. He would keep everyone up until midnight talking. And when retiring he would pick up all the newspapers in sight (with permission) and spend a couple of more hours in his room clipping articles that appealed to him with his folding scissors.

Mr. Lawson always had a fast horse. After Eliza's marriage he would sometimes gallop madly up the hollow and give her a jar of strawberry jelly or a box of candy and then gallop away.

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## American Diabetes Association issues two-minute warning about diabetes

The American Diabetes Association is sounding the alarm throughout November, National Diabetes Month, about an incurable disease that is increasingly involving the people of West Virginia -- diabetes. And the Association is offering a free written quiz to help find hidden cases of the disease.

"Almost half the people in West Virginia who have diabetes do not know they have this life-threatening disease," says Guyton Hornsby, Ph.D., president of the American Diabetes Association, West Virginia Affiliate, Inc. and an exercise physiologist at the University of West Virginia. "Many of those who have diabetes don't discover it until they are confronted with one or more of its terrible complications, such as heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, blindness, or foot and leg amputations," he says, "because the effects of this disease, while devastating, often go unnoticed for too long."

According to the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), West Virginia has the sixth worst diabetes mortality rate in the nation, and it accounts for more than 1,500 deaths, 465 leg or foot amputations

diagnosed, we then provide them with the world's best literature on how to fight the complications of diabetes and live life to the fullest."

The two minutes it takes to complete the test could be the most important two minutes in their lives," Hornsby says.

Diabetes, which afflicts about 14 million people in the United States - 100,000 in West Virginia alone - affects the way the body turns food into energy. The body does not secrete enough insulin or can't properly use the insulin it makes, and the resulting high blood sugar level can damage many of the body's organs, leading to heart, disease, kidney disease, stroke, blindness, leg and foot amputations - even death.

Symptoms of Type I diabetes include a family history of diabetes, frequent urination, abnormal thirst, excessive hunger, rapid weight loss, irritability, weakness and fatigue, and nausea and vomiting. Symptoms of Type II diabetes include those previously listed, as well as drowsiness, itching, blurred or changing vision, excessive weight, tingling or numbness in the feet, and problems with skin infections. Overweight people who



real-life insight into the physical endeavors and rich traditions of soccer. The game of soccer has long been an intercollegiate sports emphasis at Davis & Elkins College and community.

The author's association with the college began in 1942 when her father, the late G. Douglas McNeill, a former lawyer and high school administrator, was appointed associate professor of social science. Because of her great affection for the College, Mrs. Pease has donated her literary works, both published and unpublished, to the growing archival collection in the Booth Library at Davis & Elkins College.

As soon as I got off the phone call from Annabelle, I knew something had hit me. I was dizzy as a top, and I could hear a name going over and over in my head: "MacQueen!" "Mr. MacQueen!" Annabelle is my sister-in-law and lives up in Pocahontas County (West Virginia), while I live, mostly, in my lift chair down here in Kanawha. I'm 80 1/2 years old and in a rest home, so I do a lot of calling and Annabelle calls me with the news - like with "MacQueen".

As I quieted down, I realized that Annabelle had been telling me about Jamie's Hillsboro soccer team beating Elkins twice, tying Beckley, etc., etc. There's this all-county soccer league for the kids, but Hillsboro is only a village with a few farms gathered round; and Beckley is a coal city, and I had become so flabbergasted on the phone about how Hillsboro could tie Beckley, Jamie is my great nephew and Annabelle's grandson, so naturally, she was trying to explain Mr. MacQueen... "Mr. MacQueen!" That was it! This MacQueen was a Hillsboro farmer who had come over from Scotland and had taught soccer to Joe and Howard Walker when they were kids. Now Jamie was the kid and Joe his coach, with Howard helping out a little with "The Old English," so - then I knew I had made one of my far-off connections. Why, a man named McKenzie had come to the English Colony more than a hundred years ago; and the English lawyer, J.H.G. Wilson, a soccer expert had taught the Pocahontas boys how to play. "G.D." my father, was on that Wilson team and on and on the connections, till one fall, a team of Pocahontas boys had whipped D.C. for the national championship.

This soccer story had come to me, hit me like a head butt. But I don't know much more about soccer than I do about the Doppler Effect, whatever that is. So I got on the phone and called the Davis & Elkins College library and asked for a Xerox. I knew "G.D." had published something about soccer and the English Colony back in the 1950's. Next I wrote Jane Price Sharp at the Pocahontas Times Office. I knew Jane could answer a question no one else could, and she could send me some stuff about the Frost team.

By now I knew what I was tracking: a hundred years of soccer the English had left us when they went away. Soccer, head butts, dribbles, "The Old English", as "G.D." said to me that night of his heart attack.

Before long, Jane and the Davis & Elkins library sent a sheaf of Xeroxes, and I began to take notes on the back of old envelopes. I like to be organized. Especially when

alive with brook trout. The birthplace of the winding Elk River lay not far to the eastward; and there were local farmers, neighbors - not too many the Englishmen trusted - to despoil their paradise.

They bought, "cheap as dirt," a large tract of land. Then, with their traveling cook, Loyd, and possibly help also from some native workers, cut timber and built two sturdy houses. Bruce called his "The Glen."

Before long, though records are not clear as to the arrangements, Mrs. Bruce arrived from England bringing with her the two Bruce children and two servant maids.

After this pioneer settlement, the influx of English settlers was rapid and enthusiastic. Geographically, the settlement was to extend, finally, from Linwood to Mingo. Houses such as "New Market" and "Fair Haven" and sheep farms scattered uphill and down dale. The sheep were usually Hampshire, Southdown, or Cheviot, and were shipped to market on a branch of the new C & O Railroad which was coming in to haul out the hardwood timber of the new, fast-running lumber boom.

The Englishmen were of that hardy sporting breed. A race track was built, a polo field, tennis courts, soccer fields. There was a zest for fly fishing; and also that famous marathon race between young Norman Price of Marlinton and the Englishman, F. S. L. Grews. Grews won the race from Mingo to the Marlinton bridge, covering some 25 miles in 2 hours, 59 minutes - crossing, on his way, three "formidable spurs of the Big Alleghany." But a few weeks later, Grews out alone on a bear hunt, did not return by nightfall. Search was made. Grews was found lying on a flat rock, stone dead. He was buried in the Mingo graveyard, and, for him, I remember that, "There is some corner of a foreign field that is forever England."

As I think of the great Mountain Marathon, "G.D.'s" voice comes back to me from a corner of our home fireplace, though I can remember only the gist of what he said. The Greek boy fell dead in the market square. If you count the time, Grews made a real run. When they found him, no sign of a struggle, probably over-developed heart. As "G.D." speaks, the fire flames spin and cinders fall down. Some of the English, Oxford graduated. Some younger sons of the nobility. Brought their maids, cooks, nurses, governesses, even a horse trainer. Then there was that Wilson, J. H. G. Wilson, just out of Oxford, and set up his law practice in Marlinton. As "G.D." wrote in the article, "This Wilson was a soccer player deluxe." I remember his voice again, "A soccer player if I ever saw one. Coached us Marlinton boys. The thing spread. A soccer field in every holler and hamlet."

Because this "hollow and hamlet" growth of soccer paralleled the big years of our mountain timber boom, it is easy to imagine these great soccer games on a summer, Saturday afternoon. For Saturday was pronounced a holiday, and one can enlarge the length of the standard soccer field to 150 yard so as to make room for the 50 players on each side.

Here they were - say in one of Uncle Bob's or Uncle Jim Gibson's big stubble fields on Elk. The players, as they line up, are a "Motley Crew": farmers, loozers,

was not, however, to bless the English Colony itself. The late 1880's and the early 1890's were the golden years. Although, those who came and "tarried for awhile" numbered about 50. A few of their names evoke, "This happy breed of men, this little world": Mr. and Mrs. Archie Burch and maid, W. T. and J. D. Langwerthy; James McKenzie, P. C. Puckle; Hubert Eainshaw and mother; Mr. and Mrs. Latimer Tuke and daughter, Gladys.

The era 1885-1900 can be seen as the years of growth and a certain stability. But the Boer War in South Africa (1899) and World War I (1915) called some of the men to Old England's need. One of these Mingo volunteers died in the Boer War and two in World War I. There were also two meaningful departures farther into West Virginia. The Latimer Tuke family in 1908 moved to another farm near White Sulphur Springs, Greenbrier County. Also Rev. O. N. Miles began to move his family to the little country churches: to Linwood, to Cloverlick, finally to Marlinton. Today, 1991, no known living descendant of the colony remains in America. Yet the English had left to the people of Randolph and Pocahontas treasures now beyond recall. Certainly, they had left a touch of their gentile manners, a half-tone of their genteel speech, a measure of their "sporting blood," and a kind of exotic legend to tell by the fire. Most of all they had left their soccer. The first two Englishmen came to Walker Tuke's in Millboro, 1883; Jamie's schoolboy soccer league was organized in the late 1970's; and in between were those bursts of life, those lifts of joy, those legends of war and sacrifice, those summer Saturdays, those living fields of the sun.

It has been recorded that after the departure of the English, some of the Pocahontas soccer teams lived on for 30 years. Actually a few lived more than 30, and the team at Frost is a prime example. The Frost team was organized before 1900 and was still playing in 1937. Another enduring team was in the Brush Country where Willie Dilley and some of his brothers played.

I am 80 years old with a fair memory, and my brother Jim and I both remember at least one game on the field behind the old Marlinton High School. "G.D." played in this game and was 48-50 years old. Other more notable games were played at the "Old Fairground", up Greenbrier River. In one of these Fairground games, Frost played Luke, Maryland. Another big game was between Frost and Newport News, Virginia. The crowd was estimated at 3,500. The last organized Frost team played, in 1937, a championship game against D. C. So the Frost team, organized before 1900, did indeed, play more than 30 years. A picture of the Frost team, in official uniforms, is printed in the Pocahontas County History, 1981. It is a team essentially of Sharps and Dilleys. Names listed are: Bob Curry, Willie Dilley, Kyle Sharp, Earl Sharp, Ashley Dilley, Floyd Dilley, Roy Dilley, Delbert Reed, Johnny Sharp, Blair Sharp, Basil Sharp, Leo Dilley and Ernest Sharp.

The years between 1937 and 1941 are not long. They seem to rush by. Suddenly, in December 1941, stands that iron crossway

Davis & Elkins teams which had coaches, of the Davis & Elkins team that won the U. S. Championship, of the many teams that stood out and still stand in the nation as powers to reckon with. All the way from Oxford University - "old J. H. G.", as "G.D." would say it, had done "pretty well."

I wrote to Jane Price Sharp to find out if Basil had played soccer at Davis & Elkins. There was no soccer team. Plain enough. But he had played it on the Fields of France. When back from the front, Basil had played old J. H. G.'s Oxford soccer on the Fields of France. Then one time when Basil didn't come back from the front, he became, along with a few of our other boys, a legend because he would never grow old.

## Accidents

State Police have investigated two accidents in the past week.

The Back Mountain Road near Durbin was the site of a two vehicle accident on December 2, at 12:20 p.m. Involved were a 1990 Ford driven by Elsie M. Lipscomb, of Durbin, and a 1984 Ford driven by Susan P. Wilson, also of Durbin. Ms. Lipscomb failed to maintain control of her car, it slid sideways, and hit the Wilson vehicle. Two of the three passengers with Ms. Wilson were taken by private vehicle to the Deer Creek Clinic. The 1984 car had moderate damage and the 1990 car had minor damage.

A single vehicle accident occurred on Rt. 250/28 near Burtow on the 6th. Brian Young, of Arbovale, lost control of a 1985 Nissan after hitting a deer. The car slid across the highway, went onto the berm and hit a fence. Mr. Young was not injured in the 6 p.m. accident. His car had minor damage.

A number of accident reports were on file at the Sheriff's office.

The intersection of Third Avenue and Sixth Street in Marlinton was the location of a two vehicle accident on September 22 at 3:45 p.m. Involved were a 1985 Ford driven by Tammy L. Gravely, and a 1983 Chevrolet driven by Tammy L. Broce. Both drivers are from Marlinton. Ms. Gravely stopped at the stop sign on Sixth Street and then turned onto Third Avenue into the path of Ms. Broce. There were no injuries and moderate vehicle damage in the accident.

Only minor damage resulted from an accident on Rt. 219 on Droop Mountain on October 20. Involved were a 1984 Chevrolet van driven by James A. Haynes, Jr., of Marlinton, and a 1992 Ford pickup driven by Roger E. Evans, of Logan. Mr. Haynes pulled onto the road into the path of the other vehicle. Mr. Evans swerved and missed the van but lost control and went into the ditch. Mr. Evans and a passenger were not injured.

Two accidents were investigated on the 31st.

The first was at 8:55 a.m. at the Rt. 219/150 intersection on Elk Mountain. Donald R. McClung, of Summersville, travelling on Rt. 150 failed to see the stop sign until he was almost at it. He applied his

brakes, skidded on loose gravel, went across Rt. 219 and hit the embankment. Mr. McClung and a passenger were brought to the Pocahontas Memorial Hospital by Marlinton ambulance. His vehicle, a 1989 Ford pickup was a total loss.

The second accident that day was at 3:30 p.m. on the Airport Road near the Central Union Church. David E. Gainer, of Silver Spring, Maryland, lost control of his car in a curve, slid across the road and hit a car driven by Christopher Mullens, of Marlinton. Mr. Mullens and two of his four passengers suffered cuts and bruises. Mr. Gainer was alone in his car and not hurt. The cars, 1985 and 1989 Chevrolets, had moderate damage.

A 1978 AMC was a total loss following an accident on Rt. 39 at 6:20 p.m. on November 11. Philanie J. Shafer, of Marlinton, travelling east, lost control of the car in the sharp curve just east of Marlinton. It skidded off of the road and hit a utility pole and a tree. Ms. Shafer and two passengers were taken to the Pocahontas Memorial Hospital by Marlinton Ambulance.

Another vehicle was a total loss following a single vehicle accident on Rt. 219 at the Steven Hole Run Road on the 12th. Thomas C. Moats, of Hillsboro, driving a 1988 Mercury, swerved to miss a deer, lost control and went into the ditchline. Mr. Moats and three passengers suffered cuts and bruises in the 7:30 p.m. wreck.

Rt. 92 north of Minnehaha Springs was the site of an accident at 1:45 p.m. on November 21. Involved were a 1984 Chevrolet driven by Forrest S. Friel, of Marlinton, and a 1984 Ford pickup driven by William C. Roberts, III, of Charleston. Both vehicles were travelling north. Mr. Friel came up behind Mr. Roberts just after he had pulled out of the USFS road on Wildcat Run. Mr. Friel went to pass the pickup as Mr. Roberts started to make a left turn into a private driveway. The two vehicles collided when they were side by side and the Chevrolet then slid off of the highway. Mr. Friel and a passenger had minor injuries. Mr. Roberts was not injured. The vehicle had moderate damage.

The Insurance Store



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The Randolph Review carries a story saying: Louise McNeill, daughter of Professor and Mrs. Douglas McNeill of the College (and Buckeye, this county) had a poem in the Saturday Evening Post last week entitled "Heartwood"—a little poem of the family oak—a "Heartwood" of the home at Buckeye, Pocahontas County—heart of the home because of its sturdiness — for trees have hearts, you know, and are living, breathing things, for all that they cannot speak.

We'd like to quote the poem but would not be permitted to do so without the consent of the Post.

No one knows how long the tree had lived; truly a landmark — perhaps a thousand years, as Louise McNeill said in her poem. At any rate when she saw that the tree was gone



McNeill, who was a hunter and contractor from Pocahontas county, and who joined up with the Rebels when the war clouds of 87 years ago gathered over the nation.

For some time this newspaper has been trying to get the story of James McNeill, grandfather of the poetess Louise McNeill, but was unsuccessful in finding anybody who knew much about the man. Then we ran into one of Pocahontas County's best informed, but least known historians, a man named Dorsey Little, of Marlinton. Mr. Little remembered something about Jimmy Reb, but didn't want to trust himself with the historical facts, so he did the best thing possible: He wrote a letter to Professor Douglas McNeill of the Davis and Elkins College faculty.

Professor McNeill is the only son of Captain McNeill of the Nicholas Company, 22nd Virginia, who was captured at the battle of Droop Mountain and kept at Fort Delaware for a long tiresome period of time. Professor McNeill's report on his father follows, and all of it is a new and important contribution to the Civil War history of Nicholas county:

James Monroe McNeill was born at Buckeye, on Swago Creek, Pocahontas County, May 9, 1823, and died on the old home farm, March 26, 1911.

His boyhood was spent on the

carry the logs to place with handspikes. A. M. McClung owned a giant slave who was supposedly the strongest man in Nicholas. McNeill weighed 220 pounds and was something of a giant in his own right. With a man on either end of a dozen handspikes, the log was lifted and moved toward its place. McNeill and the Negro were pitted against each other. Thereupon the other men gradually eased a bit and left more weight to McNeill and the slave. I suspect my father did not admit it next morning, but he has told me that he could scarcely "get on his britches" next morning. It was, however, a consolation that the Negro was unable to report for further work on the bridge.

Personally, Captain McNeill was opposed to slavery and secession, but like Lee, Jackson, and many thousands of others, he felt that his allegiance was to Virginia, and when his state seceded, he went with it.

The "Nicholas Blues" was organized at Summersville with a Mr. Shelton as captain and my father as first lieutenant. For some reason, possibly poor health, Captain Shelton resigned and McNeill took his place.

The first fight in which this Company D took part was the Action at Kesslers Cross Lanes. It was at Carnifax all about Gauley Bridge, Sewell, and Favetteville. As



that the logs might be driven down to the mill. Dr. McNeill also allows her title to refer to the "flood" of history—the passage of time. In this collection of poems, West Virginia's poet laureate chronicles the history, lore and legend of the State. Dr. McNeill's love for and knowledge of West Virginia shine through her verse and from her pen history is never dull.

Dr. McNeill designed



tells a little-known legend about the Civil War battle in 1863; Corner Tree, based on the Lewis Oak, the stump of which stood in Marlinton until this year; Lumber Ghost Towns and Green Bank Radio Astronomy Center.

This is a book of heroes, heroines, and larger-than-life characters in West Virginia's rich story: Cornstalk, John Lewis, the slave Dick Pointer, Betty Zane, Daniel Boone. John Brown.





## **PARADE MARSHAL**

Louise McNeill Pease is the 1979 Pioneer Days Honorary Parade Marshal. This daughter of Pocahontas is a well-known poet and this year was named Poet Laureate of the State of West Virginia. She will read



One of the best plays ever given by the High School students was "Peg of my Heart." by the members of "The Seneca" the High School annual. This play was given at the Seneca Theatre Friday night to a capacity house. Those taking a part were Reta Rexrode, Stanley McLaughlin, Mary Warwick Dunlap, Anne Morris, Louise McNeill, Joe Eskridge, Addison McNeill, Bedford Dilley, Edward Rexrode. The proceeds will be used to help defray the expense of this year's issue of "The Seneca".